

the sailors and marines would proceed to the Barrack square by way of St. James street. Commander Bayley gave the command "fours right," and turned the force into Britain street, leaving the policemen standing at the head of St. James street. The crowd of spectators rather enjoyed the joke and laughed heartily. The police proceeded to the Barrack square by way of St. James street. The sailors gave an exhibition of big gun drill and were afterwards entertained with refreshments by his worship the mayor, together with the artillery band, which had been engaged by his worship to accompany the Blake's crew.

About five o'clock the Blake's crew, headed by four policemen to show the way, marched through the principal streets, the band of the warship and that of the N. B. C. D. playing alternately during the march.

The streets were densely thronged with people, and King street particularly presented a fine sight. The leading establishments made a liberal display of bunting, while Manchester, Robertson & Allison had a string of flags across the street, in the centre of which was a banner containing the word "welcome." The display was a most creditable one, and was beyond all questions the finest imperial turn-out seen in this city since the union of the provinces.

Everybody regrets that Vice-Admiral Hopkins has seen fit to make his visit to this port only cover three clear days. There are hundreds of people who were debarred from visiting the ship owing to the great crush on Sunday, Monday, and yesterday. The thousands of people who lined the wharves at the lower portion of the harbor last night enjoyed themselves, or at least seemed to. The night was perfect, the tide was up, and the scene was one of great attractiveness. The band of the Blake played some of their very choicest selections, and the N. B. C. D. A. band, who were stationed on the government pier, played in their usual accomplished way. The crowd was very unwilling to go home when the music ceased, which was after 10 o'clock.

The Rifle.

THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY.

The record and organization of the distinguished corps that provides the garrison for the British Columbia defences.

Some surprise has been expressed that a marine corps should have been selected to provide the garrison for the new British Columbia defences. This has doubtless arisen through a misconception as to the organization and raison d'être of the Royal Marine Artillery and just at this time, the following article on the corps from the pen of Lt. J. M. Rose, R. M. A., published in the United Service Magazine, makes interesting reading:

I have been so often asked the question, "What do you Marine Artillerymen do?" that I am glad to have an opportunity of replying to it in these pages, not at any length, and not in a very perfect manner, but just jotting down a few details as they occur to me.

To begin with the man. Enlistment

for the Royal Marines is general, recruits being accepted at eight centres in England and Scotland, and at the four Marine Divisions. All enlist for a period of 12 years, and from these recruits men may volunteer for the Marine Artillery, if they have a minimum height of five feet nine inches and chest measurement in proportion to height. There is no lack of recruits of good intellectual qualities at this standard, and thus it is that only men of very good character are allowed to re-engage to serve for pension for a further period of nine years.

They are well paid, and, as they are of exceptional physique and enlisted for long service, they are worth a careful training—and they get it.

Their instruction commences with infantry drill at the Depot, followed by courses of musketry, naval gun drill and target practice, land service drills (consisting of field battery, garrison and siege artillery drills, and repository and laboratory work), and ending with an infantry field-training course. All these latter are carried out at the headquarters of the corps, Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. The squads are examined by a field officer at the end of each course, and recruits are not passed to the next instruction till they have fully qualified in the preceding one; indeed, if they do not arrive at a fixed standard of excellence in naval gun drill they are no longer retained in the Marine Artillery. Having passed these courses, the recruit is now, after some two years' work, considered fully trained, and ready for his first ship, although on an emergency, or on general mobilisation, he may have been embarked after qualifying in infantry, musketry, and naval gunnery.

If the recruit takes two years to train the young officer takes nearly four, receiving two years' theoretical training at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, accompanied by riding and gymnastic instruction, a course of torpedo and one of gunnery in the naval schools, a short fire-master's course at Woolwich, and finally going through, at Eastney, a series of courses identical with those of the recruits. To obtain and retain his commission he has to qualify in twelve distinct examinations, eight of which are tests of his ability to handle men in the various branches of gunnery and infantry; and only after having done this he is also considered ready for service afloat.

Now ensues, for both officer and man, a period of constant readiness. They are marked "first for sea," and know not in what hour, in what day, they may be despatched to any quarter of the globe; but great is the disappointment if the embarking telegram is only an order to join a ship of the First Reserve on Coast-guard duty at Glasgow, Hull, &c., which are largely manned by marines.

The detachment having arrived on board a man-of-war, it would appear that the real work for which this long training has been necessary should begin; yet, as a matter of fact, only one page of one drill-book has any practical application in the new life—the one which refers to

the particular gun at which the man is stationed; yet evidently one must be trained in every type to at once confidently work a gun never before seen. Officer and man have a new class of duties to learn—for the officer a long trial of patient well-disciplined inaction, while the man becomes as a blue jacket, and except for guard duty performs very similar work.

"What do you Marine Artillerymen do, then, on shipboard?" Well, I know from experience that if I reply, "We work the guns on board ship," I shall be met with a second question, "But don't the blue-jackets work the guns?" and on my replying in the affirmative, by the second query, "Then what is the use of Marine Artillerymen?" the answer is simple.

Let me go back to the origin of the corps. In the days of Nelson, when gunnery was first becoming an art, the naval officer had enough to do to teach the pressed man his sail-drill and seamanship, and had no time to study gunnery. Nelson first tried embarking Royal Artillery to work the guns, but this was found inconvenient, and in 1804 the Admiralty formed an artillery force to teach the rest of the Marines and blue-jackets how to manage the guns, the Marine Artillery companies having founded naval schools of gunnery, and instruction batteries at the Marine divisions were reduced to two.

However, guns and their fittings became more and more complicated, whilst sail-drill was still important, and in 1862 the corps of Marine Artillery was reconstituted in its present form—that is to say, a separate division of sixteen companies with a strength of some 2,700 men, and with headquarters first at Fort Cumberland, and then at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. The Marine Artillery, then, was started to teach the Navy gunnery, but to-day, with mastless ships, the blue-jacket has time to be well instructed in gunnery. If, however, the abolition of masts has almost changed the seaman-gunner into an artilleryman, it has so altered things that the Marine can do a very great deal of the work of the ship: he can signal, or pull a boat, and has been known to sail one, to heave the lead, or man the helm, and he is far less costly to the nation than the blue-jacket, who has to be trained from boyhood. Therefore a navy manned entirely by blue-jackets would be unnecessarily ruinous to the taxpayer. Yet the daily introduction of more complicated mechanism in the guns renders a body of highly trained gunners an indispensable portion of the ship's complement.

Thus I would argue that the greater importance of mechanics and steam and the lessening value of seamanship in so far as it concerns sail-drill and sails, has rather increased than diminished the raison d'être of the Marine Artilleryman.

I certainly do not wish, however, to advocate any addition to his multifarious duties. He is now ambitious to be as good a seaman as a seaman-gunner at sea, as good a gunner as an artilleryman on shore, and as good an infantryman as